



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Southeast Region

Reply to
Attn. of: SERO Policy

March 12, 2002

Subject: SFSP Policy Memorandum 225.07-08: USDA Sponsor Reviews

To: All State Directors
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
Southeast Region

Child Nutrition Division (CND) has received State agency requests to allow State agencies to substitute a USDA review of a sponsor and its sites for a State agency review of that sponsor as required by 7 CFR 225.7(d)(2). In the past, the reviews could only be counted by the State agency if State agency staff accompanied USDA staff on the review.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) now has the authority to allow State agencies to count a USDA review of an SFSP sponsor as one of their required reviews, provided that the State agency assumes all responsibilities associated with resolution of the review findings relating to the administration of the program by the sponsor, including but not limited to any and all appeals arising from the review.

SERO will extend this policy to all SERO State agencies as a group based on prior performance of the State agencies in administering the program. Should a State agency choose to count USDA reviews in lieu of required reviews of one or more of their sponsors, the State agency is not precluded from conducting its own review of sponsors it determines will benefit from additional assistance and oversight. If a State agency is determined to have problems in the administration of the Program, the Regional Office reserves the right to rescind this policy on a State-by-State basis.

CND also received a request that State agencies be allowed to extend to the sponsor the authority to treat a USDA review of its program as one of its reviews as required by 7 CFR 225.15(d)(2) and (3). While USDA and State agency reviews of sponsors are parallel in nature, i.e. to determine that sponsors have conducted the program in accordance with all applicable state and federal requirements, the same is not true of the sponsor's review of its own program operations. Therefore, sponsors **may not** count a USDA review of their program as one of their required reviews. However, this does not preclude a sponsor from accompanying USDA on its review and simultaneously completing its own review.

Please contact this office if you have any questions about this policy.

CHARLIE SIMMONS
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs

cc: All Capitol City OICs
Southeast Region